GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4222
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Elephant Population
Teacher Smt. P.K.Sreemathi

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and species of Elephants found in the country, State-wise;
(b) the trend in Elephant population and projected increase/decline in the coming years; and
(c) the measures taken by the Government to protect the Elephant population in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Only one species, Indian Elephant (Elephas Maximus Indicus) is found in the country. As per 2012 census, elephant population in the country is 29391-30711. State-wise elephant population is given in Annexure.
(b) As per available information elephant population in the country is increasing.
(c) Measures taken by the Government to protect elephant population in the country are given below:

(i) Financial and technical assistance is provided to elephant range states under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Project Elephant' for conservation and management of elephants, protection of elephant habitat and corridors and welfare of captive elephants.
(ii) The State has notified good elephant habitats as "Elephant Reserves", for better conservation and management of elephants. So far 29 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 States.
(iii) Elephant is included under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, to provide it highest degree of legal protection.
(iv) Regular and extensive patrolling of forest areas and anti poaching measures by frontline filed staff of the State Forest Departments.
(v) Trainings and awareness camps are organised regularly for local people for conservation of wildlife.
(vi) Local communities are organised into Joint Forest Management Committees/Eco-development Committees for protection of wildlife habitat, including elephant corridors.
(vii) Habitat improvement and eco-restoration is taken up in critical areas of elephant reserves and corridors.

****